

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of printing hardcopy images, comprising:
 - (a) electronically transmitting a plurality of digital images and information identifying the locations of a plurality of recipients from a remote location over a communications channel to a central receiving agency;
 - (b) storing the plurality of digital images and the information identifying the locations of a plurality of recipients in a memory at the central receiving agency;
 - (c) a user selecting a recipient and selecting a particular stored digital image from the plurality of digital images, and authorizing the printing of the particular stored digital image;
 - (d) using the information identifying the location of the recipient to select a local printing station for the recipient from a plurality of local printing stations;
 - (e) transmitting the particular digital image to the selected local printing station; and
 - (f) printing the particular stored digital image at the selected local printing station to produce a hardcopy image.
2. The method of claim 1 further including delivering the hardcopy image from the local printing station to location of the recipient.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the delivery is provided by a postal service
4. The method of claim 2 wherein the remote printing station notifies the central receiving agency that the hardcopy image has been delivered.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein the hardcopy is packaged prior to delivery.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the particular stored digital image is modified before it is transmitted to the selected local printing station.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the modified particular stored digital image is stored in the memory at the central receiving agency.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the user authorizes the printing by providing an authorization code.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the authorization code is linked to a credit card number.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the user authorizes the sending and printing of text, graphics or both with the image.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the user authorizes the sending of the image to two or more different recipients.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the image is printed at different locations for different recipients.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the user authorizes the and printing of text, graphics or both with the image.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the central receiving agency stores graphics that are accessible to the user for ordering the printing of images and graphics.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the central receiving agency verifies that an image is suitable for printing and sending to a recipient.